

REMARKS

Consideration of this application, as amended, is requested.

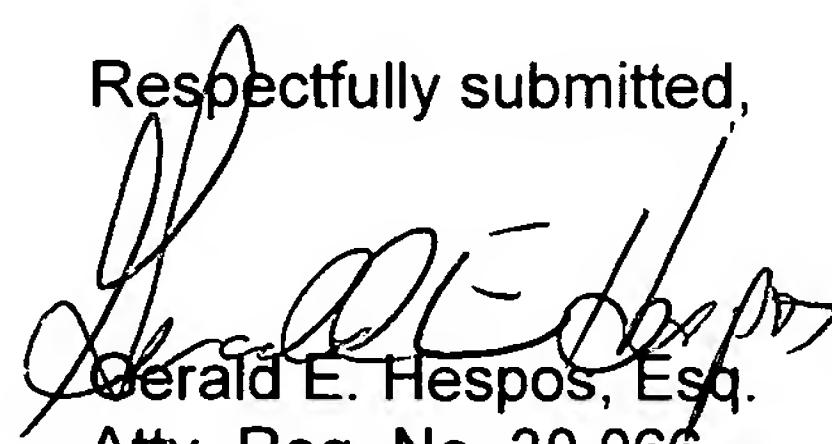
Claims 1, 2, 8, 12, 16, 18, 19, 21, 22, 24, 25, 30, 32, 42, 43, 46, 51, 69, 80 and 82 remain in the application. All of the other claims have been canceled.

These amendments have been entered to reduce the total number of claims to the twenty claims that are permitted by the United States Patent and Trademark Office without incurring additional fees. Additionally, these amendments have been entered to avoid the U.S. government surcharge for multiple dependent claim.

The Examiner will note that the broadest independent claim has not been amended at all. The amendments pertain only to the dependent claims. As a result, these amendments clearly are not narrowing in nature and are not entered for purposes of patentability. Furthermore, the applicants reserve the right to re-enter any of the claims that have been canceled by this Preliminary Amendment.

Early and favorable action on the claims is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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